

-- REMARKS --

Claims 7, 8, 17, and 18 have been cancelled to obviate the need for additional claims fees, and not to avoid any reference. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 11, and 21 is found, inter alia, on pages 6-9 of the specification. Support for new claims 22-25 is found, inter alia, on pages 7-10 of the specification.

The rejections to claims 1-21 are traversed, based on the comments in the response filed December 21, 2006. The claim amendments entered herein are entered to expedite prosecution, and not to avoid any reference. Applicants have amended claims 1, 11, and 21 and cancelled claims 7, 8, 17, and 18 from further consideration in this application. Applicants are not conceding in this application that those claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

CONCLUSION

The Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-6, 9-16, and 19-25 fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §§102, 103 and 112. In view of the foregoing, favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the present application is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,
DWIP N. BANERJEE, *et al.*

/FRANK C. NICHOLAS/

CARDINAL LAW GROUP
Suite 2000
1603 Orrington Avenue
Evanston, Illinois 60201
Phone: (847) 905-7111
Fax: (847) 905-7113

Frank C. Nicholas
Registration No. 33,983
Attorney for Applicants